

Mitchell Building  
Southeast corner of Michigan  
Avenue and West Water Street  
Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County  
Wisconsin

HABS No. WIS-156

HABS  
WIS  
40-MILWA,  
5-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

RECEIVED  
FEB 10 1961

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## MITCHELL BUILDING

Location: Southeast corner of Michigan Avenue and West Water Street, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Present Owner: Charles D. Ashley (Charles Realty Company), 611 North Broadway, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Present Occupant: Various business offices

Present Use: Office building

Brief Statement of Significance: This large commercial structure of 1876 is representative of the period of Milwaukee's rapid growth and commercial development following the Civil War.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History: This building was designed by Edward Townsend Mix (1831-1890) and was erected in 1876 for Alexander Mitchell, a Milwaukee banker. Mitchell, with George Smith, founded the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company, which was incorporated under the Wisconsin territorial government in 1839. This company was reincorporated in 1846 under the new State Banking law as a Marine National Bank. The Marine Bank occupied the site in 1846 and occupied this building from the time of its erection in 1876 until 1930.

The site is presumed to have been the location of the residence of Solomon Juneau, the trader who founded Milwaukee about the 1830's.

B. References:

1. History of Milwaukee (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1881), pp. 1071-1073.
2. Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) (Los Angeles, California: New Age Publishing Company, 1956), pp. 423-424.

C. Important old view: History of Milwaukee, p. 1073, has an early view of the building that has been often reproduced.

Prepared by Henry C. Edwards, Architect  
National Park Service - August 1960

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement: This heavily ornamented structure, as representative of commercial building in this period, is typically eclectic; it shows strong similarities to the architectural style of the Second Empire period in France, but with unusual and original treatment of some of the ornamental detail.

B. Technical Description: Stone, 122' (seven bays) on Michigan Avenue, 80' (five bays) on West Water Street, elevated basement, four stories plus fifth-story attic in mansard roof with dormers, slightly projecting center bay one story higher to form low tower, corner pavillions, basement and first story rusticated, upper stories heavily ordered, cornices between first and second, third and fourth, and fourth and fifth stories.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect  
National Park Service - October 1960

Addendum to  
Mitchell Building  
Southeast Corner, North Water and East Michigan Street  
Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County  
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Photographs

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

ADDENDUM TO:  
MITCHELL BUILDING  
207 East Michigan Street  
Milwaukee  
Milwaukee  
Wisconsin

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*WIS, 40-MILWA, 5-*

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001